



"Legacy" portrays many panoramic scenes like this one of the Mormon migration to the Salt Lake Valley. During these moments, the fatigue — yet determination — of the saints is depicted. 6-19-83 Church News

New film depicts struggle to build Zion

Continued from page 8

spilling the contents of a bowl that had been sitting on her lap. The prophet kneels down, helps her refill the bowl and then picks up the Book of Mormon. He tells Eliza to keep the book, that he will give her father's friend another copy.

Thus begins the "Legacy" of faith Eliza strives to pass down to her family. As the movie continues, the Williams family settles in Missouri — all the family that is, except for Eliza's older brother, who doesn't believe in Joseph Smith and becomes estranged from the family until in 1836, when the young man asks his father, living in Far West, for forgiveness.

While in Missouri, persecu-

tion from mobs escalates and Eliza witnesses the massacre at Haun's Mill in 1838, when an armed mob of more than 200 men killed 17 Mormons. She escapes by crossing a partially frozen stream and hiding.

The Saints are then forced to leave Missouri and the prophet is imprisoned at Liberty Jail. The Church settles in Commerce, Ill., which was later renamed Nauvoo; the prophet is released from jail; and the saints proceed to build the city — and a new temple.

Romance is interwoven into the story as Eliza's father returns from a mission in England during the Nauvoo period and brings with him a new convert, David Walker. He falls in love with Eliza, who is engaged to an-

other man. Eliza's heart is torn between the two men, but she finally chooses David.

The story continues as the Saints struggle to build the temple — and then experience anguish at the martyrdom of the prophet in 1844. One of the most poignant moments of "Legacy" occurs at this point. Eliza's husband, a stonecutter for the temple, is sitting alone and forlorn at the temple construction site after news of the prophet's death reached Nauvoo. His wife approaches him tenderly and sits by him on a stone block.

"I was not prepared for how it would end," he emotionally tells her.

"It hasn't ended," she tells him. "It only ends if we lose faith. . . . You must finish the temple."

The Saints do finish their temple before being driven from Nauvoo in 1846. Then begins the exodus west, during which Eliza is left to lead her family when David joins the Mormon Battalion, a group of more than 500 Mormon men

who volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1846 to help in a war against Mexico. The men volunteered at the U.S. government's request, traveled to California to join the war efforts, but, ultimately, they never had to fight.

David and other members of the battalion rejoined their families on a hot, dusty day on the Mormon trail.

"Legacy" includes panoramic scenes of a wagon train weaving its way across mountains and plains during the Mormon migration. The first pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley in July 1847. Eliza, David and their family entered the valley later that summer.

The end of the movie portrays the elderly Eliza giving her Book of Mormon — the one she received from the prophet — to her grandson, and saying, "Make sure that this legacy of faith may never die."

The movie took about two years to produce and was filmed on location in Utah, New York, Missouri, Illinois, Wyoming, and in England. A cast of about 30 was used, with nearly

3,000 extras, and a technical and construction crew of about 120.

In seeking state-of-the-art technology for "Legacy," Brother Merrill produced the film on 70-millimeter film. A negative of this film is about double the size of the negative of regular 35-millimeter film and produces a brighter, clearer image that fills a large screen. In addition, the film speed was accelerated by 25 percent — bringing it to 30 frames per second, rather than the normal 24 frames per second. This also improves the clarity and brightness of the film.

Despite the technical complexities of the film, Brother Merrill said that the greatest challenge to producing "Legacy" was compressing 60 years of history into 53 minutes. But he described the experience as "the highlight of my life."

Bishop Burton said he knew the film had captured its intended spirit when after an early screening he saw film crew members "with tears running down their faces. It made me feel like we had reached our objective of conveying the Spirit."

Translators assist new ward members

BY JOSEPH B. TURNER
Church News contributor

GAINESVILLE, GA.

The Gainesville Ward of the

Under the bishopric's direction, Charles Miller started the effort in 1990 as a new member of the ward. He soon received help from Ken and Christina Seay, who provide spoken

Pr
ho F
Idah
of th
ceed
liam
Eliza
hall,
tron.
presi
missi
stake
dent
Refin
ment
Rick
Tech
torat
Idah
Utah
Swap
serve
famil
missi
Relie
Prim
and a
sulta
burg
Ann
Ge
6th
Stake
Salt
Pres.
Cann
Cann